

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 USIE-00 L-03 INRE-00 SSO-00 /046 W

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O 071737Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4335

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, BDIS, NI

SUBJECT: AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY (AIIC)

REF: (A) STATE 78830, (B) STATE 80370, (C) LAGOS 4021

1. EMBASSY MET AGAIN WITH AIIC MANAGING DIRECTOR LEFEVRE MONDAY, APRIL 5, TO DISCUSS COORDINATION OF EMBASSY AND AIIC APPROACHES TO FMG. IN PURSUANCE OF INSTRUCTIONS IN PARAGRAPH 1 OF REF B, EMBASSY SIMULTANEOUSLY REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH A. ALHAJI, PERMSEC, MINISTRY OF TRADE (MOT). AFTER A DAY AND A HALF OF UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS OBTAIN MOT RESPONSE, MINISTRY SUDDENLY GRANTED APPOINTMENT FOR ACTING ECON COUNSELOR FOR TUESDAY AFTERNOON APRIL 6.

2. DURING TUESDAY'S MEETING WITH EMBOFFS, PERSEC COURTEOUS BUT FIRM. HE STRESSED THAT THE TIME FOR NEGOTIATION HAD PASSED AND AIIC MUST NOW CHOOSE TO ACCEPT OR REJECT FMG OFFER. IN RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST FOR DEADLINE EXTENSION FROM APRIL 9, HE STATED HE COULD NOT EXTEND OR OTHERWISE IGNORE DEADLINE AS IT STOOD. HE WOULD NOT COMMENT DIRECTLY ON STATUS OF POSSIBLE TECHNICAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BUT SAID THAT CONDITIONS (APPARENTLY CONCERNING GUARANTEED AVAILABILITY OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR REMITTANCE OF FUNDS) AIIC PROPOSED AFTER JANUARY 1976 MEETING WITH DAVIES WERE UNACCEPTABLE.

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3. PREVIOUS DAY'S NIGERIAN HERALD (APRIL 5) HAD FEATURED FRONT-PAGE STORY ON FMG-AIIC SITUATION UNDER HEADLINE "AMERICA DARING NIGERIA" CONTAINING ALL FACTS OF 29 MARCH LETTER FROM MINISTRY OF TRADE TO AIIC. PERSEC EXPRESSED INDIGNATION AT THIS LEAK AND VOWED TO MAKE FULL INQUIRY AND SEND RESPONSIBLE PARTIES "TO JAIL."

4. FOLLOWING EMBASSY'S MEETING WITH PERMSEC, EMBOFFS REVIEWED STATUS AND TACTICS WITH LEFEVRE, NOTTINGHAM, AND ALLER OF AIIC. AIIC OFFICIALS MET THIS MORNING WITH MOT DEPUTY PERMSEC, WHO REITERATED THAT DEADLINE COULD NOT BE EXTENDED BUT HINTED THAT "AIIC COULD TALK AGAIN" ABOUT TECHNICAL SERVICES AGREEMENT AFTER ACCEPTING THE CHECK WITHIN THE APRIL 9 DEADLINE. NOTTINGHAM FEELS THAT IF AIIC DOES NOT MEET THIS DEADLINE, MOT WILL TAKE AWAY COMPANY'S OPERATING LICENSE. HE SAYS THAT WHILE COMPANY CAN REACH DECISION BY FRIDAY, HE WOULD PREFER TO REPORT PERSONALLY TO CHAIRMAN OF AIIC'S HOLDING COMPANY IN NEW YORK. HE THEREFORE HAS ASKED THAT EMBASSY TRY AT "SOME HIGHER LEVEL" TO OBTAIN A WEEK'S DELAY. AMBASSADOR SEEKING APPOINTMENT WITH COMMISSIONER SHUWA FOR MORNING APRIL 8.

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## Message Attributes

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